St. Joseph

Feast Day: March 19

Patron Saint of the Universal Church, Unborn Children, Fathers, Workers, Travelers, Immigrants, and a Happy Death

St. Joseph is one of the most beloved and mysterious figures in the Christian tradition, honored as the foster father of Jesus Christ and the faithful spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though Scripture records no spoken words from him, his life speaks powerfully through his actions—marked by obedience, humility, courage, and deep trust in God's providence.

Joseph was a descendant of King David and lived in the small town of Nazareth in Galilee. By trade he was a carpenter, a humble craftsman who worked with his hands to provide for his family. When he was betrothed to Mary, he discovered that she was with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. Being a just and compassionate man, Joseph initially resolved to divorce her quietly rather than expose her to shame. However, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, revealing that the child Mary carried was conceived by the Holy Spirit and would be the Savior. In faithful obedience, Joseph accepted God's will and took Mary as his wife.

As guardian of the Holy Family, Joseph protected and provided for both Mary and the Child Jesus. When an angel warned him that King Herod sought to kill the infant Jesus, Joseph immediately took his family and fled to Egypt in the night. After Herod's death, Joseph returned with Mary and Jesus to Nazareth, where he raised the Son of God in a life of simplicity, teaching Him the trade of carpentry and guiding Him in the traditions of the Jewish faith.

Christian tradition holds that Joseph died peacefully in the presence of Jesus and Mary, which is why he is honored as the patron of a happy death. Today, Catholics venerate St. Joseph as a model of faithful fatherhood, diligent work, and quiet holiness, as well as the patron of the universal Church.

Key passages of St. Joseph in the Bible

- Matthew 1
- Matthew 2
- Luke 1–2
- Luke 2:41–52

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